



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
554th ENGINEER BATTALION,
1st ENGINEER BRIGADE, U.S. ARMY ENGINEER SCHOOL
FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI 65473-8941

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATSE-DEH

10 October 2006

Commander, 554th Engineer Battalion

Dear Engineer BOLC III Student,

Welcome to the 554th Engineer Battalion, and the Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course (E-BOLC III). You will soon become part of a proud battalion, with lineage and battle honors from both World War II and Vietnam. E-BOLC III is a 14 week program with specialized training tracks during the last two weeks of the course. These training tracks will focus on Combat and Construction skills needed by junior officers on today's battlefield. E-BOLC III will provide all newly commissioned engineer officers with the technical and tactical knowledge and skills that are essential to success as a platoon leader.

Come prepared to learn. BOLC Phases I and II provided you with great training to prepare you to be an effective Army officer. Here, a dedicated and professional staff will train and motivate you to be knowledgeable, disciplined, and physically fit engineer platoon leaders regardless of your component or specific follow on assignment. Listed below is some guidance to prepare you prior to signing in here at Fort Leonard Wood and tips for success at E-BOLC III.

Be physically fit. Officers, especially 2nd Lieutenants, are expected to be extremely physically fit. Like all soldiers, 2LTs are also expected to meet Army height and weight standards in accordance with Army Regulation 600-9. Upon arrival at E-BOLC III you will be weighed and taped. Do not allow yourself to exceed the allowable standards. Failure to meet the standard will result in unfavorable administrative action that will be reflected on your permanent Academic Evaluation Report (AER) at the end of the course. The company leadership will provide all soldiers with an intense, challenging physical training program designed to improve muscular strength and endurance. The cadre will administer an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) within your first two weeks of arrival and a second APFT towards the end of the course. I recommend that you begin training for these events before you arrive through a routine of push-up and sit-up improvement as well as running. For further guidance and suggested training see FM 21-20 on the [Army Digital Library](#).

Be prepared for a challenging academic course load. E-BOLC III is known for being a math-intensive course. Demolitions, bridging, vertical, and horizontal construction are just a few of the areas that engineer officers are expected to apply solid math skills. If math is a weakness, I recommend that you review basic algebra and geometry concepts prior to arrival. You will be administered a diagnostic math exam during your first few days here. You will also find some sample questions on our website that should guide you in your math preparation prior to arrival. Also, bring a scientific calculator with you.

You are coming to E-BOLC III during an exciting time of change and adaptation. Our Army is at War, and we will prepare you to be an adaptive, combat ready leader. We will provide you with the Warrior Skills that you need to successfully lead in combat, whether in Iraq,

Afghanistan or wherever our great Nation sends us. You must come here prepared to learn, study and develop these skills and apply them immediately upon graduation. Our Nation expects you to take care of its sons and daughters in a dangerous time, complete the missions you are assigned, and bring your Soldiers back home safely to their loved ones. We are committed to your success.

The Engineer Regiment is changing as the Army adopts the modular force concept. I highly encourage you to visit the [Engineer Schools Website](#) and review all of the resources on the Future Engineer Force. There is a section of the Engineer School Website titled: [The Commandant's Message](#). This section contains an excellent summary of the capabilities the Engineer Regiment is applying to the Global War on Terrorism. I expect you to review these sections as you prepare yourself to meet the challenges of today's Army at war.

While here at Ft. Leonard Wood and E-BOLC III, Learn all that you possibly can to prepare yourself for platoon leadership. The team here will aid in this, but rest assured that you will only get out of the course what you put into it. Remember, your future soldiers expect you to come to them prepared to take charge. Take this responsibility seriously. I look forward to meeting you and your family! If you require any assistance or have any questions regarding your assignment, please contact the battalion personnel section (S1) at (573) 596-0787.

STRAIGHT AHEAD!

//signed//
CARLOS PEREZ, JR.
LTC, EN
Commanding